



## Foreign Minister Maehara's Visit to Washington DC and Florida



January 6-9

Embassy of Japan

Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara visited the United States from January 6 to 9. During his visit, in addition to meeting with Secretary Clinton, FM Maehara had talks with Vice President Biden, National Security Advisor Donilon, and other U.S. government officials to discuss various issues. He met with Congressional members and senior experts and gave a foreign policy speech at CSIS. On Saturday, January 8, he traveled to Tallahassee, Florida, where he met with Governor of Florida Rick Scott, who recently took office.



The visit focused on main three points: preparation for Prime Minister Kan's visit to the United States this year, enhancement of the understanding of Japan, and economic diplomacy.

### January 6 (Thu.)

#### 1. Speech at Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

FM Maehara started off his visit to Washington by giving a speech titled "Opening a New Horizon in the Asia Pacific" at CSIS, moderated by Dr. John J. Hamre. In the speech, he mentioned that the top-priority task today for Japan and the United States is to invest our all-out and all-round effort to shape a new order in the Asia Pacific region, which finds itself in the middle of a period of change. In particular, this means to expand and strengthen the role of East Asia Summit (EAS), promote the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), strengthen cooperation with countries that share our values such as a matured democracy and market economy, and build a cooperating system in areas of both security and economy. FM Maehara delivered his speech in English, instead of through an interpreter, which made it possible for him to reach out directly to the audience of more than 300 who attended the talk.



#### 2. Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministerial Meeting (and Working Lunch)

FM Maehara and Secretary Clinton had a meeting for over two hours that included a working lunch. This was the fourth time he has met with Secretary Clinton since he became the Foreign Minister last September. They reaffirmed to work towards achieving results for the deepening of the Japan-U.S. alliance for the upcoming visit Prime Minister Kan's visit to the U.S. in the first half of this year. Their discussion focused on the areas of security, economy, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and continuing dialogue with each other about a vision of the Japan-U.S. alliance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



### 3. Meeting with Vice President Biden



After the meeting with Secretary Clinton, FM Maehara headed to the White House and met with Vice President Biden. In the meeting that lasted about 40 minutes, they agreed that the bilateral alliance is becoming more important for the peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region, and how meaningful it will be to present the vision of the alliance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They promised to continue working towards a visit by Prime Minister Kan.

### 4. Meeting with Senior Experts in Washington

FM Maehara met with Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Mr. John Podesta, Mr. Richard Armitage, and Dr. John Hamre. He appreciated listening to their opinions, based on their broad experience, about Japan-U.S. relations and other diplomatic issues that matter to both countries.



### 5. Dinner with U.S. Congress Members and Their Spouses

FM Maehara and Mrs. Maehara hosted a dinner for Congress members, including Senator Daniel Inouye, at the Japanese Ambassador's residence. At the dinner, they reaffirmed the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance and agreed to continue their cooperation in order to maintain and strengthen the bilateral relationship.

***\*Members who attended the dinner:***

Senator Daniel Inouye, President Pro Tempore, Chair, Appropriations  
Senator Patrick Leahy, Chair, Judiciary  
Senator Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Senator Carl Levin, Chair, Armed Services  
Senator John Rockefeller IV, Chair, Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chair, Energy & Natural Resources  
Senator Richard Durbin, Majority Whip  
Senator Jim Webb, Sub Committee Chair, East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Foreign Relations  
Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa



## **January 7 (Fri.)**

### 1. Meeting with Japanese-American Leaders

FM Maehara met with 7 Japanese-American leaders. He listened earnestly to their opinions about the path that the Japanese-Americans have taken, how Japanese-Americans are positioned in Japan-U.S. relations, and what they think about the bilateral relationship.

### 2. Lunch with Deputy Secretary of State Steinberg and other U.S. Government Officials



FM Maehara had lunch with Deputy Secretary of State Steinberg, Assistant Secretary of Defense Gregson, NSC Director of Japan and Korea Russel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Donovan, and others, where they discussed a follow-up from the foreign ministerial meeting that took place the day before.

### 3. Meeting with National Security Advisor Donilon

The meeting between FM Maehara and National Security Advisor Donilon was originally supposed to be about half an hour long, but in the end, lasted about 70 minutes. In their meeting, they agreed that the bilateral alliance is becoming more important for the peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region, and as a result, it is meaningful to present the vision of the alliance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They also agreed to continue working towards a successful visit by Prime Minister Kan.



### 4. Dinner with Japanese Businessmen



At the dinner, a select group of Japanese businessmen in Washington updated FM Maehara on the current situation regarding the advancement of Japanese companies in the U.S., and the U.S. economy in general, while FM Maehara expressed his view that the Government of Japan is determined to focus on economic diplomacy.

### January 8 (Sat.)

FM Maehara visited Tallahassee, Florida, for the day and met with Governor Scott, who took office on January 4. FM Maehara told the Governor that Japan is eager to strengthen economic relations with Florida. The benefits of high speed railway was another important message that he wanted to convey to the Governor. The Governor stated that he would like to hear more specifics from Japanese companies such as Central Japan Railway Company. He also mentioned that he would like to consider visiting Japan with economic leaders at an appropriate time, responding to the invitation of FM Maehara, and to invite economic leaders from Japan to have a seminar for promoting trade and investment.



### Mrs. Maehara's Visit to Washington DC



Far left: Mrs. Maehara

Mrs. Maehara accompanied FM Maehara to Washington, DC. During her stay, she visited the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery to see the special exhibit, "The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese-American Internment Camps, 1942-1946," and the Washington Japanese Language School. She also participated in a Japanese tea ceremony demonstration that took place at the tea house at the Ambassador's Residence.